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Stage 1 Fire Restrictions in Musselshell and Stillwater Counties

Conditions are right for wildland fires.

As a precaution, Stage 1 fire restrictions are now in place on private, state and Bureau of Land Management lands in Musselshell County, and will go into effect on private, state and BLM lands in Stillwater County on Friday, July 22.

Under Stage 1, fires are prohibited except within developed recreation sites, and smoking is allowed only in areas cleared of flammable materials. Exemptions include fires fueled solely by liquid petroleum or LPG, or other activities for which there is a permit or written authorization.

An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

Stillwater County recently had four lightning-caused fires, plus three instances where controlled burns escaped.

“It just goes to show that it will burn real easy,” said George Bokma, Stillwater County Fire Warden. “When people burn ditches the fire can get away and easily get too big to handle with what they’ve got at the site.”

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Please take extra caution when working and recreating outdoors to help prevent more wildland fire starts. **Anyone who causes a wildland fire intentionally or through negligence may be held accountable for damage and suppression costs.**

Even in areas not under Stage 1 restrictions, a permit is required for any open burning other than campfires. Additional restrictions may also exist in certain areas. Before burning such things as slash piles, ditches, or fields, please contact your local fire department or sheriff's office for more information and to obtain any necessary permits.

For more information about fire prevention, please contact the Custer National Forest at 406-657-6200; Bureau of Land Management at 406-896-5013; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation at 406-247-4400; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 406-247-2940; Carbon County at 406-446-1595; Stillwater County at 406-321-0204; or your local fire department or sheriff's office.

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